

KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET
NEWS RELEASE

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KHRA EQUINE MEDICAL DIRECTOR NAMED
Safety and Welfare Committee Formed

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 19, 2008) – The Kentucky Horse Racing Authority (KHRA) today announced the hiring of a long-time race track veterinarian for the newly established post of Equine Medical Director and voted to establish a new safety and welfare committee.

Dr. Mary Scollay, who has served for the past 13 years as senior veterinarian for Calder Race Course and Gulfstream Park in south Florida, takes over the new post.

Dr. Scollay developed a uniform, on-track equine injury reporting system that several race tracks across the country began using in June 2007, noted Lisa Underwood, KHRA executive director. The injury reporting project will help identify the frequency, type and outcome of racing injuries using a standardized format that will generate valid composite statistics. The injury reporting system is sponsored by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, and is being developed by InCompass Solutions, Inc, a subsidiary of The Jockey Club.

The Equine Drug Research Council identified the need for the new position last year, Underwood said. The KHRA subsequently approved a contract with the University of Kentucky Research Foundation to establish the position in the UK College of Agriculture.

The Equine Medical Director will conduct and oversee drug research, serve as a consultant on equine medication and health issues, and make recommendations on strategies to enhance equine safety and to prevent illicit activities.

Dr. Scollay has been a practicing veterinarian since 1984, and has served as a track vet at race courses in Illinois and Florida. She has held several chairmanships for the American Association of Equine Practitioners. At Calder and Gulf Stream, she oversaw pre- and post-race soundness evaluation, racing injury assessments, and testing, among other duties.

She holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Illinois-Urbana.

“We’re excited to have Dr. Scollay taking over this important new position,” Underwood said. “She is a recognized leader in the field, and she will be an outstanding addition to the KHRA.”

At the request of KHRA Board Chairman Robert Beck Jr., the authority voted to establish a safety and welfare committee. The committee is expected to examine topics such as racing surface composition and maintenance, medication rules, and jockey safety issues. The committee looks forward to working with other committees in the industry that are also researching and analyzing safety concerns, Beck said.

“The KHRA takes very seriously its role in ensuring the safest environment possible for racing in Kentucky,” Beck said. “I am confident the safety and welfare committee will make recommendations to the authority that will help us achieve that goal.”

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Dr. Mary Scollay